

6th December 1969. League Match v. Woking (away)

WANDERERS' FACE-SAVER

Woking 1, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS lost their grip on a match that could and should have been sewn up well before half-time at Woking on Saturday.

Woking were relieved when they saw Tony Horseman, the striker who has destroyed them so many times in the past, was not included in Wycombe's line-up. Tony is suffering from a pulled hamstring.

And the home men proceeded to cut back Wycombe's title challenge by surprisingly holding them.

Wycombe had all the skill and more than enough ability to see off a vastly improving Woking side, but they never had the bite up front or the enthusiasm of the home men.

After dominating the first half, Wycombe had one goal to show for their efforts—a John Delaney penalty, after 38 minutes.

Yet England International, Peter Suddaby and Ken Blunt had gone close on many occasions, showing up the players in front who should have been more to the fore-front than their mid-field opponents.

In the second half, Wycombe allowed the initiative to slip completely from their grasp and their only real goal challenge came when Keith Searle was forced to see his header hit the Woking crossbar with goalkeeper, Brian Farris, beaten.

The two real stars were opposing centre backs Delaney and Woking's Derek Edwards. Both looked unbeatable on the ground and in the air, and many dangerous situations were cut because of their ability.

After Suddaby and Blunt had come closest to giving Wycombe a first half lead, the goal came from a penalty needlessly given away by Edwards of all people.

Goalkeeper Farris cleared the ball from a centre and Searle

pounced only to be flattened by Edwards as he searched for a point.

Searle needed treatment to a leg injury before he could get up and watch Delaney stroke the spot-kick firmly into the left corner of the net.

Woking's second half recovery was sparked off by the casual approach of Wycombe, especially in defence. Within three minutes of the half a break in Wycombe's defence led to Kenny Holder getting a chance at goal and his clever lob beat John Maskell all ends up only to bounce back from the bar and go finally for a goal-kick.

The Wycombe defence was to have many more let-offs including a furious goalmouth scramble with a back-heel by Mickey Elliott. This was driven from the goal-line before Woking equalised with 15 minutes left.

Dave Leonard, Woking's new capture from Sutton, at last got in the game and steered a precision past Johnny McCormack who plagued the Wycombe defence, especially Maskell, for most of the game.

McCormack centred from the right and Elliott managed to get the slightest touch with his head. Maskell was already diving to cut out.

Woking's top goal scorer, Tim Binks was waiting by the left post to blast the ball over the goal-line.

It was a thrilling finish when both sides came close. A point apiece was a fair enough result for two sides who never looked as distant in ability as the league table seems to indicate.

Woking: Farris; Moore, Elton; Finn, Edwards, Smith; Elliott, Holder, McCormack, Leonard Binks. Sub.: Parver (not used).

Wycombe: Maskell; Rundle, Lailey; Stephenson, Delaney, Suddaby; Blunt, Baker, Searle, Falkner, Anthony. Sub.: Thomas (not used).
Attendance: 567.